

***Interview Summary***

The following is continued from the Interview summary Form:

The primary point of discussion was the limitation of at most a pH of 5. In the claims it is required that the solution containing the polymers has a pH of at most 5. The applicant's representative argued that NISHINO only taught a pH of 6 and taught towards pH's higher than 6. Additionally it was stated that at a pH of 6.4 there was turbidity and separation while no such separation showed up at a pH of 5 or less. The examiner asked if there were any test or data showing turbidity at a pH level of 6.

It was further discussed what pH a conventional process made the polymers of the instant claims (part a). The applicant's representative stated that in a conventional process the pH is adjusted higher than a pH of six and that the advance over the prior art was not raising the pH above a pH of 5 before adding it into the pulp. The examiner asked if it may be possible to get a declaration from an inventor regarding the conventional vs. inventive techniques.

/Anthony J Calandra/

Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Eric Hug/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791